

won universal respect and admiration of faculty, staff, students, administrators and community leaders." Mr. Speaker, I share this view wholeheartedly.

Frances Lee's contributions to the CCSF community make up only one part of her extraordinary forty-year legacy to the City of San Francisco. A dedicated social worker, she acted as Executive Director of the Chinese Newcomers Service Center for more than a decade, where she used her talents to educate America's newest residents about our language and society. Ms. Lee has also been a civil rights champion in the Bay Area, serving on the Board of Directors of Chinese for Affirmative Action for the past 19 years and fighting to open the doors of America's schools and businesses to all Americans, regardless of race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation.

The causes and organizations to which Frances Lee has devoted herself mirror the breadth of her passion. From the Center for Southeast Asian Refugees to the San Francisco Bilingual Vocational Training Program, her commitment to the Bay Area community has enriched our lives.

Mr. Speaker, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors has declared May 9th as "Frances Lee Day" in the City and County of San Francisco. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of this outstanding woman, and in congratulating her on her retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. CONNIE MITCHELL, WINNER OF DELAWARE'S HOME-BASED BUSINESS ADVOCATE AWARD

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Connie Mitchell—winner of the Delaware Home-Based Business Advocate Award. Ms. Mitchell earned this honor through her work as President of Mitchell Business Services.

As you know, advocates for small and home-based business have always been extremely important to the economic vitality of each State and to our national economy. Home-based businesses provide opportunities for millions of people to earn a living and provide financial stability for their families. Through her work, Connie has distinguished herself and many other home-based business advocates in Delaware's small business community.

Throughout my years in public service I have consistently counted Delaware's home-based businesses to be amongst the very best in the country, and recognition of Ms. Mitchell further confirms my belief.

Connie Mitchell's accomplishments and innovative leadership in the community have placed Mitchell Business Services and many other home-based businesses in a position to rise above and meet the challenges of the future; I commend her on her receipt of this award and I look forward to Ms. Mitchell's continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO RYAN GERMAN, WINNER OF THE DELAWARE YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ryan German, owner of Caffè Gelato in Newark, Delaware and winner of the Delaware Young Entrepreneur award.

Mr. German established Caffè Gelato in Downtown Newark during his senior year as a business student at the University of Delaware. It has since turned into one of the most popular eateries in the city thanks to the efforts, dedication and creativity of its owner, Mr. German.

Throughout my years in public service I have consistently counted Delaware's small businesses amongst the very best in the country. Mr. German's recognition further confirms my belief.

As you know, small businesses have always been extremely important to the economic vitality of each State and to our national economy. Small businesses account for the majority of all new jobs being created daily, and provide opportunities for millions of people to earn a living and provide financial stability for their families. Through his work, Ryan has distinguished himself as an outstanding leader in the small business community.

Ryan German's accomplishments and entrepreneurial skills have placed Caffè Gelato in a position to rise above and meet the challenges of the future; I commend him on his receipt of this award and I look forward to Mr. German's continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF SUNIL AGHI

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember and honor the life of my friend, Mr. Sunil "Sunny" Aghi, who recently passed away.

Sunny's colleagues and the community will always remember his activism, dynamism and deep sense of commitment to the democratic principles. He believed passionately in the democratic process and worked to support that process. As a leader of the Indo American community, he brought issues of importance to the community to the forefront of the political debate. Sunny's leadership inspired other Indian Americans to become engaged and civically involved.

Sunny also fought diligently to bridge the divide between the United States and India. He sought to promote a positive relationship between India and the United States through an open, honest and productive dialogue between the two nations.

Mr. Aghi's dedication to serving the community was unrivaled and his passing has left a void. I am deeply saddened by his sudden passing and join his family, friends, col-

leagues, and the Indian American community in mourning his death. Today I rise to ask Congress to pay tribute to Sunny's energy, passion and dedication.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY HONORS THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER MIDDLESEX COUNTY, THE U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP AND FIFTY-FIVE YEARS OF ISRAELI STATEHOOD

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County whose members will demonstrate their support for the U.S.-Israel relationship on May 4, 2003 with a Middlesex County community wide "Walk for Israel" in Johnson Park, Highland Park, New Jersey. I applaud the members of the Jewish Federation not only for their commitment to Israel, but for the service they provide to the less fortunate members of our Central New Jersey community. Their heartfelt work to improve the lives of others regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity is a testament to their humanity and we are proud to have them here in New Jersey.

I also rise today to recognize the strong U.S.-Israel relationship and to celebrate the 55th year of Israeli Statehood. Since it was founded in 1948 and with prompt U.S. recognition, Israel has stood firm as an ally of the United States and its interests in the Middle East. Our citizens maintain a deeply rooted friendship based upon common interests, a shared commitment to democracy, individual freedoms, and a rejection of extremism and terrorism.

New Jerseyans have a special relationship with Israel. We have a special sister state relationship with the State of Israel through the New Jersey-Israel Commission. Israel, as a valued partner in trade and cultural exchange, receives the continued support of our citizens.

Since 1948, the State of Israel has committed itself to living in harmony and mutual respect with its neighbors and to arriving at a peaceful solution to the conflict with the Palestinians. For most of the last three years, however, Israelis and Palestinians have found themselves in a violent and crippling deterioration of relations. Thousands have died in horrible violence that has torn through the hearts of both the Israeli and Palestinian communities.

With the introduction of the so-called "Roadmap" yesterday by President Bush, I hope we are at a renewed moment of hope. The people of New Jersey believe that the future security of Israel depends upon bringing end to terrorism, bloodshed, and human suffering and to establishing a just, permanent peace with the Palestinians.

I rise today in recognition of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County, the special U.S.-Israel relationship, and to celebrate 55 years of Israeli independence. Let us commit ourselves to work together with Israel so that she will enjoy her next 55 years at peace with her neighbors.